Jajan, Jean Veta
1113 South 17th
Laramie, WY

home address: 1115 Mason Drive
Pacifico, CA 94044

Interview August 12, 1987

born November 19, 1948
Parents: Leo and Betty (Eckstein) Veta
Grandparents: Louis and Rose Veta
Sam and Edna Eckstein. They were from the Ukraine. Immigrated to US about 1906. Went directly to Denver due to prior visit. Left Russia to avoid military service.

Loe Veta met Betty Eckstein in Denver. Betty was born in Denver. They tied to run away and get married at the ages of 19 but decided to wait.

Leo Veta came to Laramie about 1937 and operated Crown Drug for an uncle. He later bought Crown Drug and turned it into Crown Liquor. This was on 2nd Street. About 1950 he operated a Crown Liquor store on 3rd Street. At the same time he also ran a billiard parlor with a half brother, Joseph Levison from 1957 to 1963 ro 1964.

Other Jewish families in Laramie
- Sam Smith - he ran a furniture store
- Dr. Russen, an art professor
- Mr. Rosenblatt - son-in-law of Sam Smith and worked in the Smith Furniture Store
- Dennis Veasman
- Harold Breen - professor in veterinary medicine school at university. Had two children and a non-Jewish wife. Later moved to Fort Collins.

On anti-semitism, Leo Veta was blackballed from the Shriners. This was the only incident. Jean describes her father as outgoing and gregarious. He was socially accepted and a sociable person. He hosted a Christmas party at his bar.

For Jewish identiy, the family went down to Denver to be with her mother's (Ecksteins) family. Sometimes they went to Cheyenne for services and Sunday School. A Rev. Harvey Gillman came to Laramie from 1961-1963 to instruct Laramie Jewish youth in Hebrew on Sundays.

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She attended the University of Wyoming. At first her parents sent her to another university so that she might meet a Jewish boy, but she decided to return to Laramie. It was at Laramie she met her husband, Ernesto Jajan, a Jewish student from Argentina. There were few Jewish students at UW at that time. She and Ernesto started an informal Jewish organization that included an Israeli student, an Iranian and another unknown person. They tried to contact Jewish student organizations in Fort Collins and Denver to aid them. Dr. Breen assisted them in this activity.

Jewish students were often employed in her father's liquor store.

Ernesto Jajan's family emigrated from the Ukraine to Argentina. They came under the Baron de Hersh Fund as farmers. Ernesto is now treasurer of AWD Technologies of San Francisco.

References

Sam Veta (brother)
5500 Newcastle #52
Encino, CA 91316

Dennis Veasman
29325 Queen Way
Agoura Hill, CA 90301

wrote to both 8/13/87